



CITY OF DEL REY OAKS POLICE DEPARTMENT

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The Honorable John M. Phillips
Presiding Judge of the Coordinated Trial Courts of Monterey County
P.O. Box 414
Salinas, California 93902

Dear Judge Philips:

The City of Del Rey Oaks is pleased to have been allowed to comment on the finding and recommendations of the 1999 Monterey County Civil Grand Jury as they related to the manufacture and abuse of METHAMPHETAMINE (meth).

FINDINGS:

1. A significant danger from waste by-products, related to both the manufacture and usage of METHAMPHETAMINE, places the population-at-large in an at risk situation. Major meth-makers frequently change the locations of their manufacturing operations making their discovery difficult for law enforcement.

The City of Del Rey Oaks Agrees.

2. Monterey County is the unwitting host to large numbers of individuals involved in the clandestine manufacturing of meth. The profit incentive encourages many individuals to engage in the criminal practice of making of meth.

The City of Del Rey Oaks Agrees.

3. The prevalence of meth-related criminal activities places the population-at-large at increased risk of such crimes as burglary, robbery, and assault.

The City of Del Rey Oaks Agrees.

4. Monterey County is experiencing an increasing incidence of meth-usage and addiction among the population-at-large, especially among youths. Meth manufacturers have developed a multi-level (pyramid) sales scheme.

City of Del Rey Oaks Agrees

5. The seizure of assets, including real property of individuals involved in meth making, is often not being exercised by Monterey County law enforcement.

City of Del Rey Oaks Agrees.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Law enforcement agencies approach the METHAMPHETAMINE problem as a distinct entity not related to other drug enforcement activities.

The City of Del Rey Oaks believes that narcotics enforcement officers/teams should be trained and equipped to deal with all types of illegal drugs. This should include the investigation and enforcement of Marijuana grows and distribution, Cocaine trafficking, and the manufacture and sale of Methamphetamine. A team for the sole purpose of Meth enforcement would not benefit the general public.

On going training for the Patrol Officer, Investigator, and Supervisors, along with state of the art equipment is the key to successful narcotics enforcement.

2. Law enforcement agencies are required to submit information concerning all arrests relating to METHAMPHETAMINE to the press in the form of press releases rather than simply indicating such incidents in the daily activity log.

The Del Rey Oaks Police Department log is available to all of the media. The Police Department conforms to all of the requirements of the California Public Records Act. The Del Rey Oaks Police Department will issue press releases on an individual basis when a case is determined to be of a significant public interest.

3. Law enforcement agencies develop a coordinated communications plan so that METHAMPHETAMINE information can be effectively shared by all agencies.

Police agencies throughout Monterey County routinely share information on narcotics traffickers, dealers etc. Training is hosted by a number of agencies including the Department of Justice and the California Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training.

4. The Monterey County Board of Supervisors (BOS) seeks the means for funding special METHAMPHETAMINE-abatement personnel and program.

Monterey County has a Narcotics Task Force that is fully capable to investigate METHAMPHETAMINE cases. Additional resources from the California Department of Justice Bureau of Narcotics Enforcement and U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration are available to assist in these cases.

5. The BOS seek the means of funding environmental clean up of legally seized METHAMPHETAMINE -related properties, and execute the resale of such properties as a means of funding increased anti- METHAMPHETAMINE activities.

This is an extremely complicated issue. Each seizure case must be evaluated to determine if the cost of cleanup exceeds the value of the real property. The EPA and DTSC have jurisdiction over what is clean! Additionally, the usual condition of real property as a result of the life style of meth users and dealers is extremely poor.

6. The BOS and City Councils provide funding for the purchase of a meth-trained canine.

The Monterey County Narcotic Enforcement unit has a canine that is meth certified.

7. The BOS and City Councils provide funding for the training and placement of more meth-qualified deputies in the field.

All Del Rey Oaks Police Officers are certified in Narcotics Enforcement. The California Department of Justice Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training conducts Narcotics training through out the State of California which is reimbursed to the individual agency. Our Community Colleges also sponsor this POST Certified training.

Sincerely


Jack D. Barlich

Mayor

3/9/00

For information